

Reveo-0192USAAON00
10/777,032

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application. By previous Amendment, claims 1-17 were canceled and claims 18-37 were presented. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 18, 19 and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DePue (US Patent No. 6,668,107). Claims 20-28 and 35-37 stand rejected as being unpatentable over DePue in further view of Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6,444,976).

It is respectfully submitted that the features of the present claims are neither anticipated by DePue nor rendered obvious by DePue in view of Ishikawa.

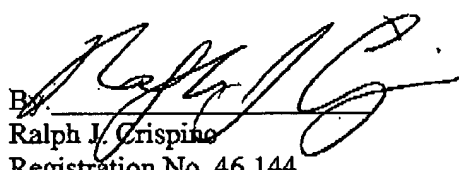
Claim 18, as amended, recites that said at least one cavity is configured and dimensioned to accept functional blocks, thereby providing an optical equivalent of a breadboard. Neither DePue nor Ishikawa recites an optical equivalent of a breadboard as claimed.

Claim 19, as amended, recites that at least one functional block is provided between at least one set of routing elements in said array, thereby providing an optical equivalent of a breadboard. Neither DePue nor Ishikawa recites an optical equivalent of a breadboard as claimed.

Claim 20, as amended, recites that at least one cavity is provided between at least one set of adjacent spheres in said array, wherein said cavity is configured and dimensioned to accept functional blocks, thereby providing an optical equivalent of a breadboard. Neither DePue nor Ishikawa recites an optical equivalent of a breadboard as claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-37 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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